

**Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (CSELS)**  
**Division of Public Health Information Dissemination (DPHID)**

The primary mission for the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (CSELS) is to provide scientific service, expertise, skills, and tools in support of CDC's national efforts to promote health; prevent disease, injury and disability; and prepare for emerging health threats. CSELS has four divisions which represent the tactical arm of CSELS, executing upon CSELS strategic objectives. They are critical to CSELS ability to deliver public health value to CDC in areas such as science, public health practice, education, and data. The four Divisions are:

Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance

Division of Laboratory Systems

Division of Public Health Information Dissemination

Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development

**Applied Public Health Advanced Laboratory Epidemiology**

The mission of the **Division of Public Health Information Dissemination (DPHID)** is to serve as a hub for scientific publications, information and library sciences, systematic reviews and recommendations, and public health genomics, thereby collaborating with CDC CIOs and the public health community in producing, disseminating, and implementing evidence-based and actionable information to strengthen public health science and improve public health decision-making. Major Products or Services provided by DEALS include:

The American Hospital Association (AHA): AHA Annual Survey and AHA Healthcare IT Survey Data. Contact [AHAdata@cdc.gov](mailto:AHAdata@cdc.gov)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) health data coordination - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Virtual Research Data Center (VRDC) is CDC's Gateway to CMS Data. CMS has developed a new data access model as an option for requesting Medicare and Medicaid data for a broad range of analytic studies. The new model is a Virtual Data Access model supported via the Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW): the "CMS VRDC". Refer to CMS VRDC Datasets for a list of data sets that are available on the CMS VRDC.

CDC Health Disparities & Inequalities Report (CHDIR) 2011 - CDC and its partners work to identify and address the factors that lead to health disparities among racial, ethnic, geographic, socioeconomic, and other groups so that barriers to health equity can be removed. The first step in this process is to shine a bright light on the problems to be solved. Providing accurate, useful data on the causes of illness and death in the United States and across the world is a foundation of CDC's mission and work.

CDC Science Clips - CDC Science Clips is an online bibliographic digest featuring scientific articles and publications that are shared with the public health community each week, to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge.

The Community Guide - The Guide to Community Preventive Services is a free resource to help you choose programs and policies to improve health and prevent disease in your community. Systematic reviews are used to answer these questions:

Which program and policy interventions have been proven effective?

Are there effective interventions that are right for my community?

What might effective interventions cost; what is the likely return on investment?

Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) - The goal of Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) is to provide an overview of key health indicators for local communities and to encourage dialogue about actions that can be taken to improve a community's health. The CHSI report was designed not only for public health professionals but also for members of the community who are interested in the health of their community. The CHSI report contains over 200 measures for each of the 3,141 United States counties. Although CHSI presents indicators like deaths due to heart disease and cancer, it is imperative to understand that behavioral factors such as tobacco use, diet, physical activity, alcohol and drug use, sexual behavior and others substantially contribute to these deaths.

Community Health Assessment for Population Health Improvement - A document that identifies the metrics – the population health outcomes and important risk and protective factors – that, taken together, can describe the health of a community and drive action. Selection of these metrics reflects the weight of professional and academic judgment over the past three decades.

Epi Info™ 7 - Physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, and other public health workers lacking a background in information technology often have a need for simple tools that allow the rapid creation of data collection instruments and data analysis, visualization, and reporting using epidemiologic methods. Epi Info™, a suite of lightweight software tools, delivers core ad-hoc epidemiologic functionality without the complexity or expense of large, enterprise applications.

Epi Info™ is easily used in places with limited network connectivity or limited resources for commercial software and professional IT support. Epi Info™ is flexible, scalable, and free while enabling data collection, advanced statistical analyses, and geographic information system (GIS) mapping capability.

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) health data coordination - The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) (<http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/>), developed through a Federal-State-Industry partnership and sponsored by the Agency for

Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), includes a family of health care databases built from hospital administrative data to create a national information resource of patient-level health care data. The data cover hospital inpatient care, outpatient emergency department care, and hospital-affiliated and/or freestanding ambulatory surgery care data. HCUP includes the largest collection of longitudinal hospital care data in the United States, with all-payer, encounter-level information.

Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library - The Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library (CDC Library) serves as CDC's hub for research, information exchange, and learning. The CDC Library offers a number of services and resources to all CDC staff (FTEs, Contractors, and Fellows), domestic and international:

- Access to journal articles and books

- Reference Services

- Training

- Science Clips

- Working Space

Statistical Advisory Group - The Statistical Advisory Group (SAG) was created to assist the ADS in jointly addressing issues, problems, and opportunities which effect the quality and integrity of science at CDC and more specifically promoting and enhancing the quality and integrity in statistical science at CDC.

The SAG is charged with providing advice and counsel to the ADS on issues involving statistical methods and applications as they relate to public health and, more specifically, the mission objectives of CDC. The SAG, to the maximum extent practicable and appropriate, shall ensure coordination and scientific rigor in regard to the use and application of statistical methods and analysis across CDC Centers, Institutes, and Offices (CIOs).

Additionally, the SAG shall endeavor to advance the knowledge and currency of statistics and, more broadly, analytic methods throughout CDC via coordination, sponsorship and/or procurement of activities including, but not limited to, training, seminars, symposia and analytic tools. The SAG is also charged with increasing communication among scientists at CDC, including those outside the statistical sciences.

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